

SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATOR SOTO'S GUN STORAGE SAFETY BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Gunowners Held Responsible for Guns Taken to School by Minors

Sacramento – Citing the recent shootings at Santana High School and Granite Hills High School, Governor Gray Davis signed Senator Nell Soto's (D-Ontario) gun storage bill into law today.

"I am thrilled the Governor acknowledges the need to crack down on irresponsible gunowners," claims Soto. "Children are getting their hands on guns and taking them to school. We must hold gunowners accountable."

The new law makes a gun owner guilty of criminal storage of a firearm if minors under the age of 18 gains access to a gun and kills or injures someone. The previous law only held the gunowner liable if the child was under 16 years old. The new law also enforces penalties on gunowners if a child, under 18, takes the gun to school, or a school function, whether it is used or not.

"The shooting tragedies at Santana High School and Granite Hills High School demonstrate the need to do everything possible to keep weapons out of the hands of the school age children," Governor Davis stated in his letter to the California State Senate announcing the signing of SB 9.

The new law goes into effect January 1, 2002.

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